

Amendments to the Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a therapeutic or diagnostic agent and a supramolecular complex, said complex comprising as constituents (i) a block copolymer, having at least one nonionic, water soluble segment and at least one polyanionic segment, and (ii) at least one charged surfactant having hydrophobic groups, the charge of said surfactant being opposite to the charge of the polyanionic segment of said block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer constituent is not crosslinked to form networks, the constituents of said complex being bound by interaction between said opposite charges and between surfactant hydrophobic groups, and the ratio of net charge of said surfactant to the net charge of the polyanionic segment present in said block copolymer constituent of said complex is between about 0.01 and about 100.

6. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the nonionic segment of said block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of polyetherglycols, copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, polysaccharides, homopolymers and copolymers of vinyl compounds selected from the group consisting of acrylamide, acrylic acid esters, methacrylamide, methacrylic acid esters, N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide, vinyl alcohol, vinyl pyrrolidone, vinyl triazole, or the N-oxide of vinylpyridine, polyorthoesters and polyamino acids.

7. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said polyanionic segment is selected from the group consisting of polymethacrylic acid and its salts, polyacrylic acid and its salts, copolymers of methacrylic acid and its salts,

copolymers of acrylic acid and its salts, heparin, poly(phosphate), polyamino acid, polymaleic acid, polylactic acid, nucleic acid or carboxylated dextran.

8. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said polyanionic segment is a homopolymer or a copolymer prepared from a monomer which polymerizes to form a product with carboxyl pendant groups, said monomer being selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, aspartic acid (amino acid), 1,4-phenylenediacrylic acid citraconic acid, citraconic anhydride, trans cinnamic acid, 4-hydroxy-3-methoxy cinnamic acid, p-hydroxy cinnamic acid, trans-glutaconic acid, glutamic acid (amino acid), itaconic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, maleic anhydride, mesaconic acid, trans- β -hydromuconic acid, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid, 4-styrene sulfonic acid, trans-traumatic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, vinyl phosphate acid, vinyl benzoic acid, vinyl glycolic acid.

9. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of lipophilic quaternary ammonium salts, lipopolyamines, lipophilic polyamino acids, lipophilic primary-, secondary-, tertiary- and heterocyclic amines, lipophilic imidazoles, lipophilic piperidinium salts, lipophilic quinaldinium salts, lipophilic azonium and azolium salts, pH-sensitive cationic lipids, dicationic bolaform electrolytes or a mixture of said surfactants.

10. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 5, further including a nonionic surfactant.

11. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein said nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of dioleoyl phosphatidylethanolamine,

dioleoyl phosphatidylcholine, or a mixture of said nonionic surfactants.

12. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a therapeutic or diagnostic agent and a composition of matter forming a supramolecular complex in aqueous medium and comprising as constituents (i) a block copolymer, having at least one nonionic, water soluble segment and at least one polycationic segment, and (ii) at least one charged surfactant having hydrophobic groups, the charge of said surfactant being opposite to the charge of the polycationic segment of said block copolymer, the constituents of said complex being bound by interaction between said opposite charges and between surfactant hydrophobic groups, with the proviso that when said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is an ionic substance having a net charge opposite to the charge of said block copolymer, the net charge of said diagnostic or therapeutic agent is no more than 10, the ratio of the net charge of said surfactant to the net charge of the polycationic segment present in said block copolymer constituent of said complex is between about .01 and about 100, and said supramolecular complex has a particle size of less than 500 nm.

13. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said polycationic segment is selected from the group consisting of polyamino acid, alkanolamine esters of polymethacrylic acid, polyamines, polyalkyleneimines, polyvinyl pyridine and the quaternary ammonium salts of said polycationic segment.

14. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12, comprising an anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates, alkyl sulfonates, fatty acid soaps, salts of hydrox-, hydroperoxy-, polyhydroxy-, epoxy-fatty acids, salts of mono- and polycarboxylic acids,

prostanic acid and prostaglandins, leukotrienes and lipoxines, alkyl phosphates, alkyl phosphonates, lipids, sodium-dialkyl sufosuccinate, -alkyl ethoxylated sulfates, cholate and desoxycholate of bile salts, perfluorocarboxylic acids, fluoroaliphatic phosphonates, fluoroaliphatic sulphates.

15. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5 in the form of vesicles, said vesicles having an internal volume comprising said therapeutic or diagnostic agent.

16. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is a charged species, having a positive or negative charge.

17. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is a constituent of said supramolecular complex.

18. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is selected from the group consisting of analgesic agents, anti-inflammatory agents, antibacterial agents, antiviral agents, antifungal agents, antiparasitic agents, tumoricidal or anti-cancer agents, proteins, toxins, enzymes, hormones, neurotransmitters, glycoproteins, immunoglobulins, immunomodulators, dyes, radiolabels, radio-opaque compounds, fluorescent compounds, polysaccharides, cell receptor binding molecules, anti-glaucomic agents, mydriatic compounds, and local anesthetics.

19. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said charge ratio is between about 0.1 and 10.

20. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said charge ratio is between about 0.1 and 10.

21. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said supramolecular complex has a particle size less than 200 nm.

22. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said supramolecular complex has a particle size less than 100 nm.

23. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12 in the form of vesicles, said vesicles having an internal volume comprising said therapeutic or diagnostic agent.

24. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is a charged species, having a positive or negative charge.

25. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is a constituent of said supramolecular complex.

26. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is selected from the group consisting of analgesic agents, anti-inflammatory agents, antibacterial agents, antiviral agents, antifungal agents, antiparasitic agents, tumoricidal or anti-cancer agents, proteins, toxins, enzymes, hormones, neurotransmitters, glycoproteins, immunoglobulins, immunomodulators, dyes, radiolabels, radio-opaque compounds, fluorescent compounds, polysaccharides, cell receptor binding molecules, anti-glaucomic agents, mydriatic compounds, and local anesthetics.